

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 10, 1999

Dear Colleague:

Today we, along with colleagues from across the country, are introducing S. 1900, "The High-Speed Rail Investment Act" and invite you to join us as a cosponsor.

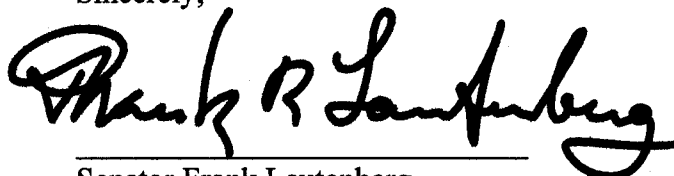
Overcrowding on our highways and in our skies is almost at a crisis point. The cost to our nation in terms of lost productivity and wasted fuel could be as high as \$100 billion a year, and this will only get worse as road and air travel continue to increase.

We cannot solve this problem simply by building new roads and new airports -- the costs are enormous and in many places we just do not have the space. We have scarce fiscal and land resources and we must make more efficient use of our existing infrastructure. The rail lines are there already, ready to help solve the overcrowding problems that are making other transportation options less and less appealing. Exploiting the untapped potential of our existing rail infrastructure directly advances smart growth goals such as reducing pressure to build new roads, redeveloping downtowns, protecting wetlands and open space, and helping to ensure cleaner air and a cleaner environment. But, for the most part, U.S. transportation policy has ignored the potential of high-speed rail and our rail system has fallen far below the standards set in nearly every other developed nation on the planet.

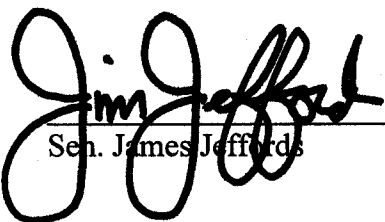
The modest investment called for in this legislation is vital if we are to prepare our nation's transportation system for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. There is too much congestion, too much gridlock, too much wasted fuel and lost productivity to ignore our underutilized passenger rail system. This legislation is forward looking, cost-effective, and absolutely necessary if we are to ensure that our nation's transportation system can handle expected growth in travel without being overwhelmed by congestion and gridlock.

A one page summary of this legislation is attached for your review. We hope that you will join us as a cosponsor and help us build 'Corridors to the Future' around the nation. Please have your staff contact Mitch Warren with Senator Lautenberg (4-0535), Jay McCarthy with Senator Moynihan (4-9565), or Ken Connolly with Sen. Jeffords (4-5157) if you have any questions.

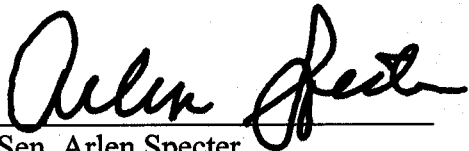
Sincerely,



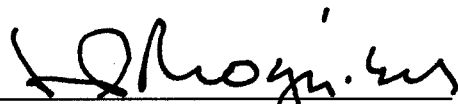
Senator Frank Lautenberg



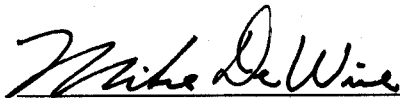
Sen. James Jeffords



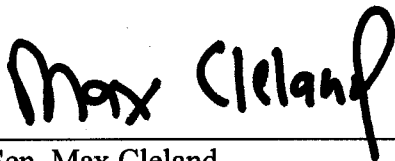
Sen. Arlen Specter



Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan



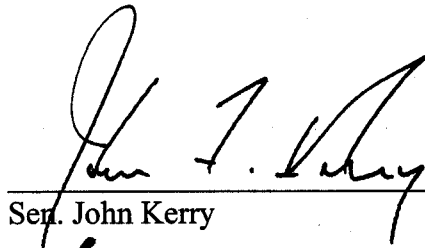
Sen. Mike DeWine



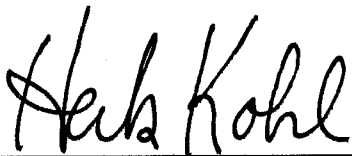
Sen. Max Cleland



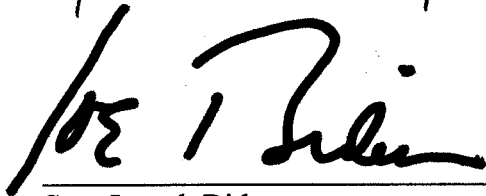
Sen. Charles Robb



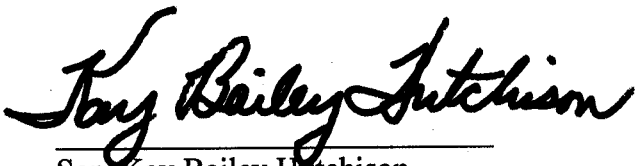
Sen. John Kerry



Sen. Herb Kohl



Sen. Joseph Biden



Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison